

Staff Report

Agenda Item: 5A

Title: Community Innovation Fund – 2015 Recommendations

☒ Action ☐ Discussion ☐ Informational

Date: June 23, 2015

Prepared By: Howard Blin, Community Engagement Manager

Attachments:

Requested Action

The NCEC is requested to approve the funding recommendations from the Community Innovation Fund Committee for submission to the City Council for final approval or to deny the recommendations and refer the review of applications back to the Committee.

Background

The Community Innovation Fund (CIF) provides funding to neighborhood organizations for projects that address City goals. Unlike the Community Participation Program, which allocates funding to neighborhoods on a formula basis, the CIF would allocate funding on a competitive basis. The program places an emphasis on neighborhoods collaborating with other neighborhoods or community based organizations.

Work on the guidelines for the Community Innovation Fund began in late 2013 at the Committee of the Whole. In early 2014 a series of listening sessions were held with neighborhood organizations throughout the city to gather ideas on the program. These comments informed a draft set of guidelines which was distributed to neighborhood organizations in mid-2014 for comment.

In the fall of 2014 the NCEC organized the Community Innovations Fund Committee to complete work on the guidelines and prepare a request for proposals. At the January meeting the NCEC approved the program guidelines. The guidelines were approved by the City Council in March. The first round of the program is proposed for 2015 through 2016 and allocate up to \$300,000. The maximum award for any project would be \$30,000.

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department at 612-673-3737. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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Process Followed

The application period for the program began on April 15th. All neighborhood organizations were sent the guidelines and the application electronically and by mail. By the deadline of June 3rd 21 applications were received.

Members of the Community Innovations Fund Committee reviewed the applications. This process involved reading all applications and then rating each application on a set of criteria included in the guidelines. A composite score was then created for each application which allowed the projects to be rank ordered. The Committee then further evaluated the top ranked applications on the overall goals of the program.

The review committee consisted of the following members of the Community Innovations fund Committee: David Zaffrann Chair, Queen Kimmons, Denis Houle, Jeffrey Strand and Ishmael Israel. In addition, Stacy Sorenson, NCR Neighborhood Specialist, participated in rating the applications and the Committee evaluation of the applications, but did not vote on the final recommendations.

Recommendation

On June 17th the Community Innovation Fund review committee unanimously recommended the following applications for funding in 2015.

Applicant	Amount Requested	Recommended Amount
Bottineau Neighborhood Association Bottineau, in partnership with the Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace and the Above the Falls Citizen Advisory Committee, is requesting funding to hire a public health intern working in the field of environmental toxicology to compile data regarding air emissions in the neighborhood. The goal of the project is to produce data which would lead to work with local industries to reduce air emissions.	\$16,000	\$16,000
Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization Central is proposing to partner with Waite House to provide job training for residents of the Central Neighborhood with the goal of placing those residents in jobs at the Seward Coop Grocery which is being developed in the neighborhood.	\$30,000	\$30,000
Citizens for a Loring Park Community Partnering with the Lowry Hill Neighborhood Association, Loring Park would utilize the funding for a community based planning process leading to a landscape plan to improve the appearance of the Hennepin –Lyndale Avenue Corridor.	\$30,000	\$15,000
Cleveland Neighborhood Association Cleveland is partnering with local arts organizations Juxtaposition Arts and Bully Creative Shop to implement the Street Forum community engagement tool. This project will use technology and social media to involve residents in issues affecting the neighborhood.	\$30,000	\$20,000

East Phillips Improvement Coalition East Phillips is proposing to partner with the Native American Youth Arts Collective to use art as an engagement tool among youth living at Little Earth.	\$29,400	\$25,000
Holland Neighborhood Association Holland would be partnering with the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership for work in community engagement and planning for the Great Northern Greenway, a trail corridor connecting north and northeast Minneapolis across the Mississippi River.	\$20,000	\$15,000
Longfellow Community Council Longfellow proposes to partner with the Metro Blooms, a non-profit organization which promotes gardening throughout the metro area, the Longfellow Business Association and Project for Pride in Living to develop 40 raingardens throughout the neighborhood. These raingardens are intended to improve the quality of stormwater and add greenspace to the neighborhood.	\$18,000	\$18,000
Lyndale Neighborhood Association Partnering with the Corcoran, Powderhorn Park, Central and West Bank neighborhood organizations, as well as HOME line, Lyndale would be the lead organization in developing the Minneapolis Renters Coalition. This group works on renters issues within Minneapolis.	\$30,000	\$30,000
Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association Midtown is proposing to provide startup funding for a low power Somali language FM radio station in the Phillips area. Partnering with the Somali American Community, a non-profit which hold the license for the station, Midtown will fund the training and technical requirements for starting the station.	\$30,000	\$26,000
Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association Partnering with the Mercado Central business cooperative, Powderhorn would use the funding to continue current efforts to rebuild organizational capacity in the coop.	\$30,000	\$25,000
Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association Prospect Park is proposing to partner with residents of the Glendale Public Housing development on engagement efforts in the propose redevelopment of Glendale.	\$29,400	\$15,000
Ventura Village This project would construct an outdoor patio and picnic area adjacent to the Phillips Community Center.	\$30,000	\$25,000
Windom Park Citizens in Action Windom is seeking to expand an existing tool library. The project would involve developing storage and workshop space for the tool library in order reach more people in the neighborhood.	\$29,537	\$25,000

Projects Not Recommended for Funding

Many excellent projects were proposed for the program. The limit on available funding did not allow funding of all the applications. The following are those not recommended for funding:

Bryant Neighborhood Association – Requested \$17,600 to conduct community forums on sustainable development.

Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association – Requested \$17,500 to hold community free arts days aimed at involving low-income, immigrant and homeless residents in free public arts days.

Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. – Requested \$30,000 to partner with the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota to assess community assets and partner with immigrant business in the neighborhood.

Hawthorne Neighborhood Council – Requested \$30,000 to fund dialogs on community well-being.

Kingfield Neighborhood Association – Requested \$30,000 as part of the funding for a solar-ready low-income townhouse development.

Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association – Requested \$9,202 to fund four scholarships for area youth.

McKinley Neighborhood Group – Requested \$30,000 to support an ongoing urban farming initiative.